

Testimony by Jack Hoogendyk, Executive Director
Citizens' Alliance for Life and Liberty
Before the Families, Children and Seniors Committee
February 7, 2012

Good morning. I am Jack Hoogendyk, Executive Director of the Citizens' Alliance for Life and Liberty, a 501-c-4 non-profit organization whose mission is to protect and defend the God-given right to Life, Liberty, and Property of all of Michigan's residents. I represent over 8,000 individuals, businesses and families, who care about their right to own their own home, and business, raise and educate their children as they see fit, and live and work in an environment of liberty and equal justice.

I appreciate the opportunity to address this committee this morning on the House Concurrent resolution 11, as introduced by Representative David Agema.

A five-year old boy comes home from kindergarten class with a new book bag from his teacher. Included in the bag is a book entitled "My Two Dads", a book about "diversity and alternative lifestyles". The parents do not want their five-year-old exposed to this material. They meet with the principal who first tells them they may not opt their child out of the class. After further discussion with the superintendent, the father refuses to leave until he is assured that his son will not be forced to participate in the class. He is held in the office, the police are called, and he is put in cuffs and taken to the station to be booked.

A thirteen-year-old boy has a serious health condition. His parents take him to the doctor for a check-up. The doctor recommends a drug test. His parents approve but are then told they may not see the results of the test without the express written consent of their son.

These stories are **true**. You can watch them on the website www.parentalrights.org.

Your fundamental rights to raise and nurture your children as you see fit is under threat. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) would empower children to virtually do whatever they please without interference from their parents. Its effect would be binding on American families, courts, and policy-makers.

Under the provisions of the UNCRC:

- Children would have the ability to choose their own religion while parents would only have the authority to give their children advice about religion.
- The government could override every parental decision if a government worker disagreed with the parent's decision.
- Children would have the right to reproductive health information and services, including abortions, without parental knowledge or consent.

The UNCRC has already been signed by the President. If ratified by the U.S. Senate, under international law, the treaty would override even our Constitution.

What is needed to stop this insidious international law from taking effect in the United States? We believe the Constitution needs to be amended to include fundamental parental rights. We support HCR 11, which would memorialize Congress to pass the Parental Rights amendment. We believe it is essential that this amendment be included in the Constitution because while many rights, such as the right to free speech and the right to bear arms are enumerated in the Constitution, the fundamental right of parents is not found in the Constitution. Since 2000, Supreme Court decisions have begun to erode the assumed right of parenting. It is for this reason that we support enumeration of this fundamental right in our Constitution.

The Parental Rights Amendment has three sections.

SECTION 1

The liberty of parents to direct the upbringing and education of their children is a fundamental right.

SECTION 2

Neither the United States nor any state shall infringe upon this right without demonstrating that its governmental interest as applied to the person is of the highest order and not otherwise served.

SECTION 3

No treaty may be adopted nor shall any source of international law be employed to supersede, modify, interpret, or apply to the rights guaranteed by this article.

More information on this issue may be found at www.parentalrights.org. Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

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CITIZENS' ALLIANCE FOR LIFE & LIBERTY
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*Working to protect your life,
your liberty, and your property*



Citizens' Alliance for Life & Liberty



**CITIZENS' ALLIANCE
FOR LIFE & LIBERTY**
*a grassroots organization
created to protect and defend
our constitutional rights
to life, liberty and
the pursuit of happiness*

*Will your children and grandchildren grow up
in a land of freedom and liberty or will we have
to tell them about a land that ONCE was?*

What is CALL?

Citizens' Alliance for Life & Liberty (CALL) is a 501c4 organization with a governing board of directors. The membership of CALL consists of interested or concerned individuals and business owners. CALL advocates for Michigan prosperity and liberty through protection of those rights enumerated in the Declaration of Independence. CALL strongly believes that economic growth and strong families both stem from the rights we have as individuals, which are endowed by our Creator.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Citizens' Alliance for Life & Liberty is to protect and defend our unalienable right to life, liberty and property through education, public policy, lobbying and political action.

Education: educate students and the voting public about the constitutional principles of limited government, free markets, individual liberty and personal responsibility.

Public Policy: work with constitutional scholars, public policy boards and business leaders to craft legislation that protects our constitutional rights.

Lobbying: work with lawmakers to support legislation that promotes limited government and free markets and to oppose bills that restrict freedom.

Political Action:

recruit, endorse and help elect candidates who understand and commit to the constitutional values of limited government.

How You Can Help

A broad-based grassroots of grassroots support is the way we will achieve success in protecting our God-given rights.

Your contributions to CALL are critical and confidential. Join us! With your membership, you will receive our weekly e-newsletter and legislative alerts. We will keep you informed about what your lawmakers are up to in Lansing.



**CITIZENS' ALLIANCE
FOR LIFE & LIBERTY**

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Working to preserve your liberty and property

